



DOOM

2099

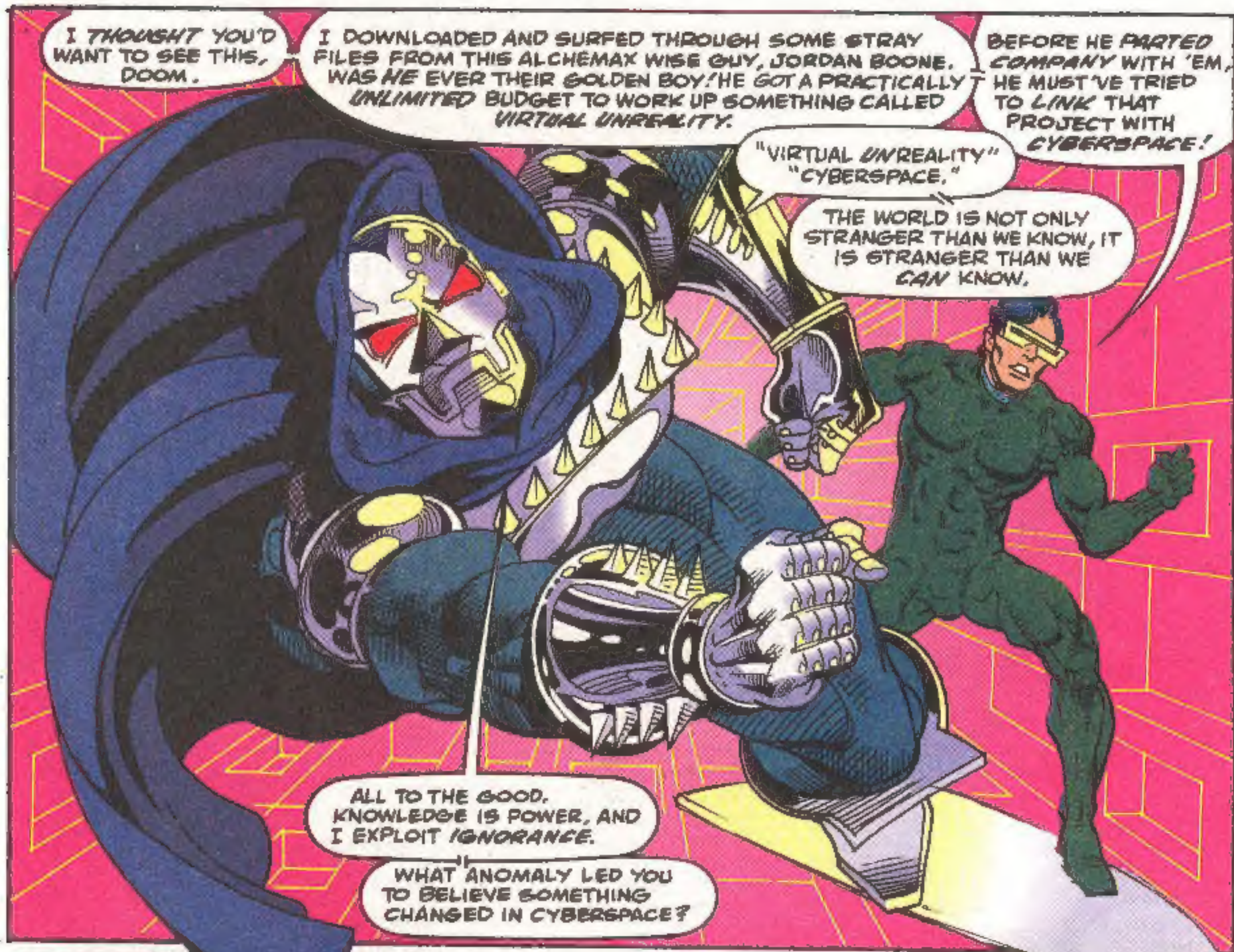
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Dictator for Life

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I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO SEE THIS, DOOM.

I DOWNLOADED AND SURFED THROUGH SOME STRAY FILES FROM THIS ALCHEMAX WISE GUY, JORDAN BOONE. WAS HE EVER THEIR GOLDEN BOY? HE GOT A PRACTICALLY UNLIMITED BUDGET TO WORK UP SOMETHING CALLED VIRTUAL UNREALITY.

BEFORE HE PARTED COMPANY WITH 'EM, HE MUST'VE TRIED TO LINK THAT PROJECT WITH CYBERSPACE!

"VIRTUAL UNREALITY"
"CYBERSPACE."

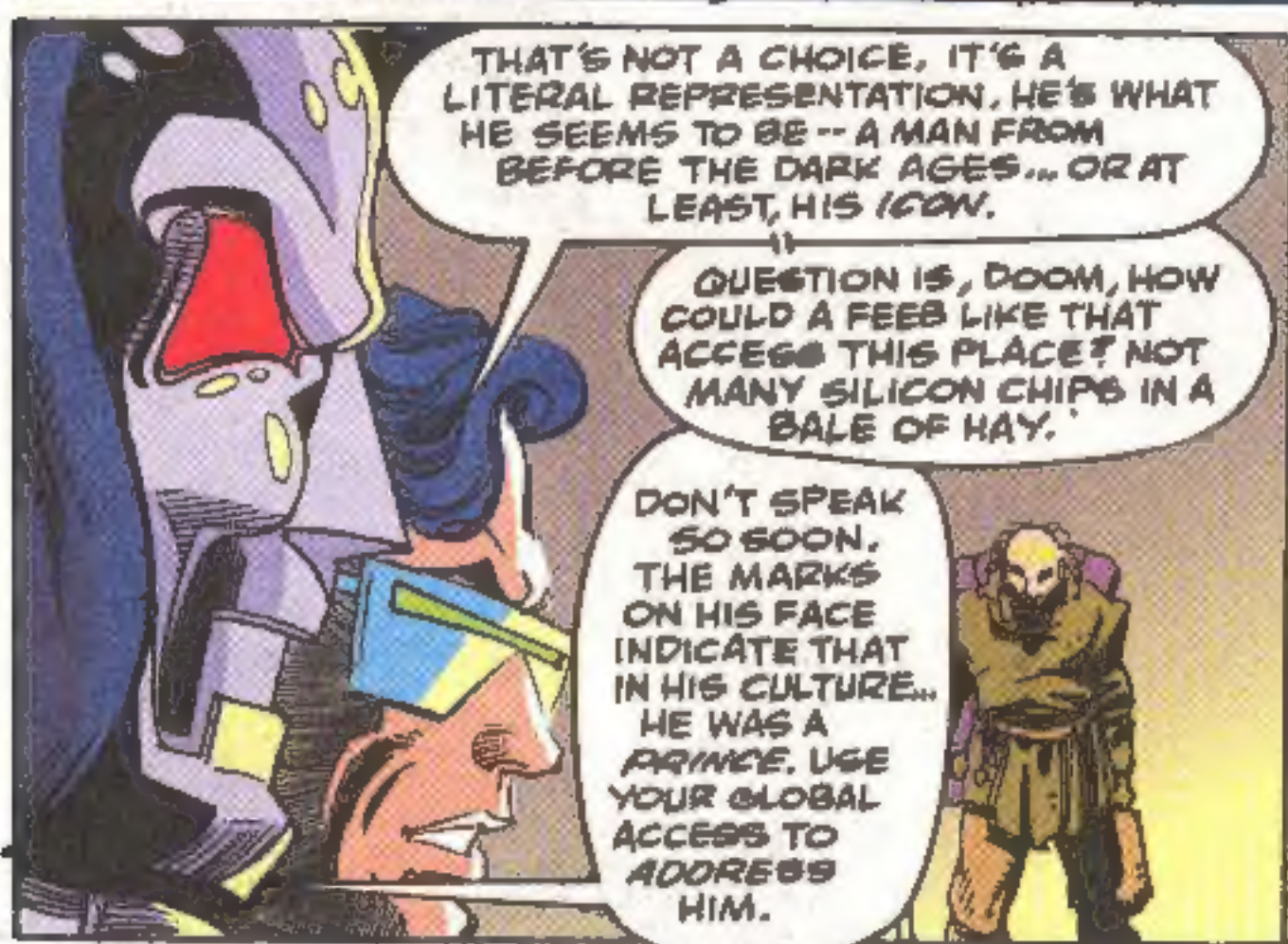
THE WORLD IS NOT ONLY STRANGER THAN WE KNOW, IT IS STRANGER THAN WE CAN KNOW.

ALL TO THE GOOD. KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, AND I EXPLOIT IGNORANCE.

WHAT ANOMALY LED YOU TO BELIEVE SOMETHING CHANGED IN CYBERSPACE?

HIM, I TAKE IT?

WHO IS HE? WHO WOULD CHOOSE TO REPRESENT HIMSELF AS A RAGGED BEGGAR IF THEY COULD BE ANYTHING THEY WANTED ON THE NET?



THAT'S NOT A CHOICE, IT'S A LITERAL REPRESENTATION. HE'S WHAT HE SEEMS TO BE -- A MAN FROM BEFORE THE DARK AGES... OR AT LEAST, HIS ICON.

QUESTION IS, DOOM, HOW COULD A FEEB LIKE THAT ACCESS THIS PLACE? NOT MANY SILICON CHIPS IN A BALE OF HAY.

DON'T SPEAK SO SOON. THE MARKS ON HIS FACE INDICATE THAT IN HIS CULTURE... HE WAS A PRINCE. USE YOUR GLOBAL ACCESS TO ADDRESS HIM.

YOU...THE ONE CALLED "DOOM".

YOU ARE THE ONE I HAVE COME SO FAR TO FIND.



WHAT DO YOU
NEED OF ME?

IT IS NOT WHAT
I NEED, IT IS WHAT
THE WORLD NEEDS
FROM YOU.

DEMANDS
OF YOU.



YOU BEAR AN
IRON HAND, PERHAPS IT
IS SYMBOLIC OF THE IRON
HAND YOU *MUST* WIELD!



CRETIN!
PRETENDER TO
THE THRONE!

HOW DARE
YOU SPEAK TO
THIS MAN OF
WHAT HE "MUST"
DO! YOU ARE NOT
FIT TO SHINE
HIS BOOTS!



LET
HIM
SPEAK
INSTEAD
TO A PEER...
ATTILA,
GREATEST
OF THE
HUNG!



TRULY...
I SEE
MYSELF
REFLECTED
IN YOU!



YET, YOU DISAPPOINT!

YOU ARE THE GREATEST TO SIT UPON THE THRONE OF POWER, BUT YOU HAVE NEVER DONE WHAT YOU... AND ALL OF US... HAVE SET OUT TO DO...

SO YOU HAVE NO EXCUSE, WHAT YOU WANT IS YOURS.

YOU HAVE HAD ACCESS TO MEANS THAT WOULD OUTSTRIP FAR OUR WILDEST IMAGINATIONS!

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

... ASSUME THE ULTIMATE, THE SUPREME POWER... EMPEROR OF THE WORLD!

YOU KNOW YOU WANT IT.



I SHOULD BE FLATTERED THAT MY REPUTATION PRECEDES ME...

...AND TRULY IT HAS PRECEDED ME... SOME SEVEN HUNDRED YEARS TO YOUR TIME, ATTILA.

SUCH AN ASCENT TO POWER, I'VE FOUND, REQUIRED MY WILL AGAINST THE MAJORITY. WHERE WOULD I FIND THOSE WILLING TO BE GOVERNED? WHERE WOULD I FIND THE CONSENSUS TO RULE?

AGAIN YOU DISAPPOINT. NO TRUE MAN OF POWER EVER NEEDED A CONSENSUS...

BUT IF YOU WISH ONE, HERE IT IS...

STAN LEE PRESENTS



DOOM... CAESAR!

MY VOTE IS CAST! DOOM FOR PRESIDENT!

EMPEROR DOOM!

GIVE US DOOM!

WHO SPEAKS? WHO MAKES THIS MANDATE?

Long Live...
King DOOM!
the FIRST!

C'EST MOI, YOUR
EMPEROR,
NAPOLEON THE
FIRST!

T'SING DAO,
GENGHIS
THE KHAN!

AND I,
ALEXANDER,
WHO WEPT WHEN
THERE WERE NO
MORE WORLDS
TO CONQUER!

YOU DON'T
KNOW THE
MEANING OF
TEARS,
WHELP.

ET TU,
DOOM?
WILL YOU
REFUSE OUR
HELP IN
GAINING
THE
GREATEST
POWER
OF ALL?

COME, COME.
EVEN BEHIND
THAT STEEL
MASK, YOUR
THOUGHTS, YOUR
FEELINGS ARE
BETRAYED. YOU
ARE IMPRESSED
AREN'T YOU?

EVEN A
BIT...
HUMBLED?

BY WHAT? AN
ASSEMBLAGE OF
HISTORY'S GREATEST
LOSERS?







BRAVE, BRUTAL
AND BLOODTHIRSTY...

...THE FIGHTING
MEN OF A HUNDRED
CENTURIES...

...FROM ROME
AND CARTHAGE...
MONGOLIA AND
MACEDONIA, ODESSA
AND OLYMPIA!

UNQUESTIONING...
AND
UNSTOPPABLE!

THEY ARE
WITHOUT
NUMBER...
AND AS ONE
FALLS, A SCORE
MORE TAKES
HIS PLACE!



WHAT DO
YOU SAY,
DOOM?

AH...YOUR
ANSWER
IS PLAIN.

NOT NEARLY AS PLAIN AS YOUR REASON FOR THE GENEROUS OFFER.

LET ME ELUCIDATE.

SHAKESPEARE SAID "THE EVIL MEN DO LIVES AFTER THEM... THE GOOD IS OFT INTERR'D WITH THEIR BONES."

EVEN THE MOST DESPOTIC OF LEADERS BROUGHT SWEEPING CHANGE TO THE REPUBLICS THEY SUBJUGATED.

ALTHOUGH WE WROTE HISTORY IN BLOOD, TOO EASILY IT WAS WIPED AWAY! WE LIVED BY THE SWORD... AND THE CHANGES WE BROUGHT DIED BY THE SAME SWORD!

NO MATTER WHO BUILT THE LIBRARY OF ALEXANDRIA... IT WAS DESTROYED BY VANDALS NONETHELESS...

I MYSELF BROUGHT A NEW WORD FOR DEFEAT INTO THE LANGUAGE... THE DAY OF THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO.

BUT NOW IS A CRITICAL TIDE IN THE AFFAIRS OF MEN IN 2099, THERE IS GREAT DISORDER UNDER HEAVEN, AND THE SITUATION IS EXCELLENT FOR A MAN LIKE DOOM.

NOW COMES THE OPPORTUNITY TO LAY DOWN LAWS AND VALUES OF... PERFECTION THAT WILL STAND FOR ALL TIME. SUCH AN UNDERTAKING MUST HAVE THE WORLD'S GREATEST CAPTAIN AT ITS HELM.

THE GREATEST?



FAR BE IT FROM ME
TO ARGUE.

IF DESTINY BECKONS
EVEN HERE IN THIS
ENDLESS EXPANSE,
WHO AM I TO IGNORE
THE CALL?

DO YOU KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE
LETTING YOURSELF
IN FOR? IT'S
ONE THING TO
RULE THE
WORLD...

...BUT "THE WORLD"
IS DEFINED AS A MUCH
BIGGER PLACE THAN WHEN
ANY OF THESE GENTLEMEN
TRIED TO CONQUER IT
WITH MERE ARMIES.

THE TERRITORY
OF CYBERSPACE, THE
REALM OF THE MYSTIC,
THE DIMENSIONS JORDAN
BOONE LINKED UP TO IN
VIRTUAL UNREALITY, THE
NANOTECH SPHERE, TO
SAY NOTHING OF
SPACE...

THE GLOBE
MAY HAVE GROWN
SMALLER IN 2099... BUT
THE UNIVERSE...

THE
UNIVERSE INDEED,
WIRE,

THE UNIVERSE CONTINUES
TO EXPAND.

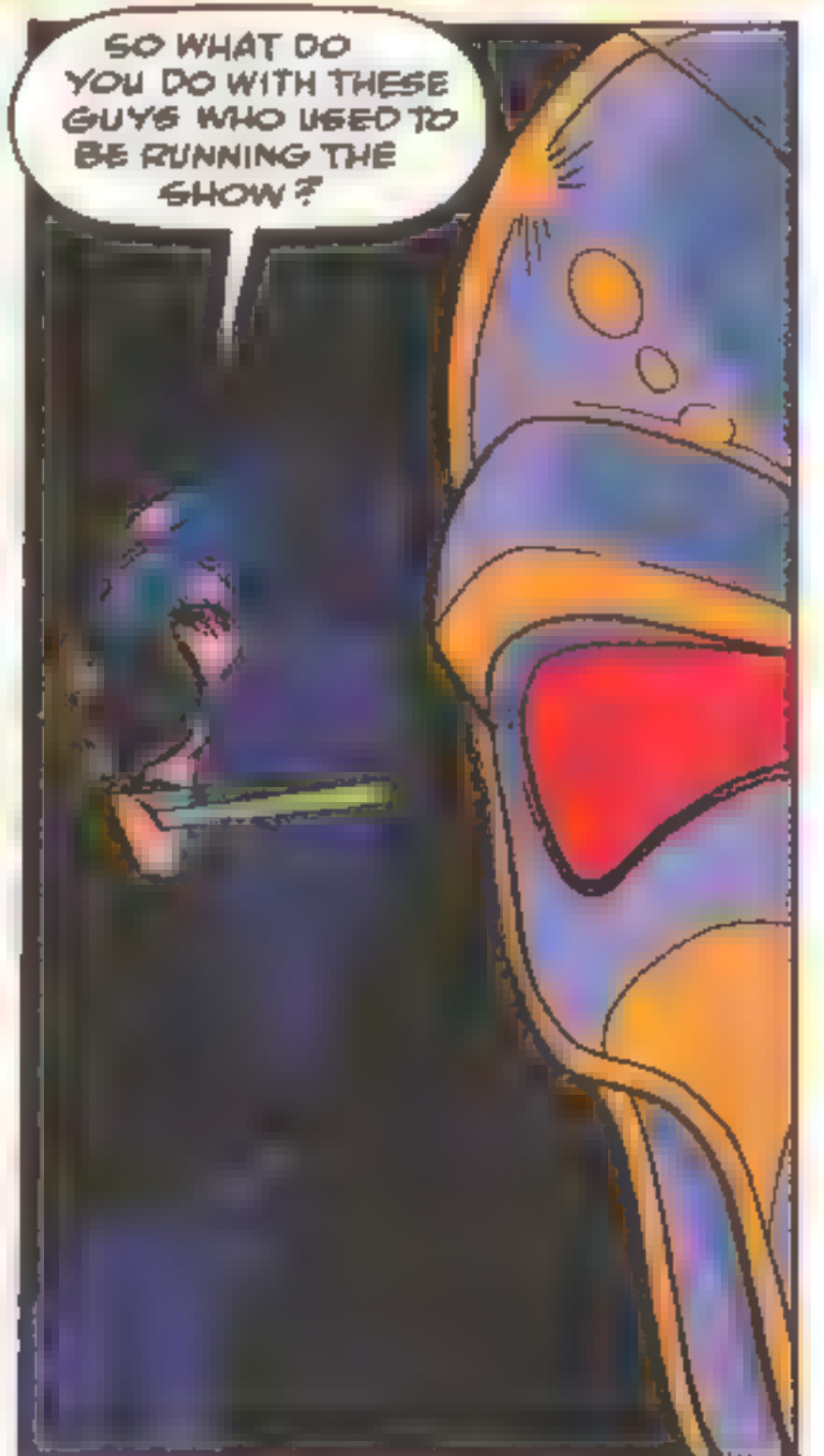
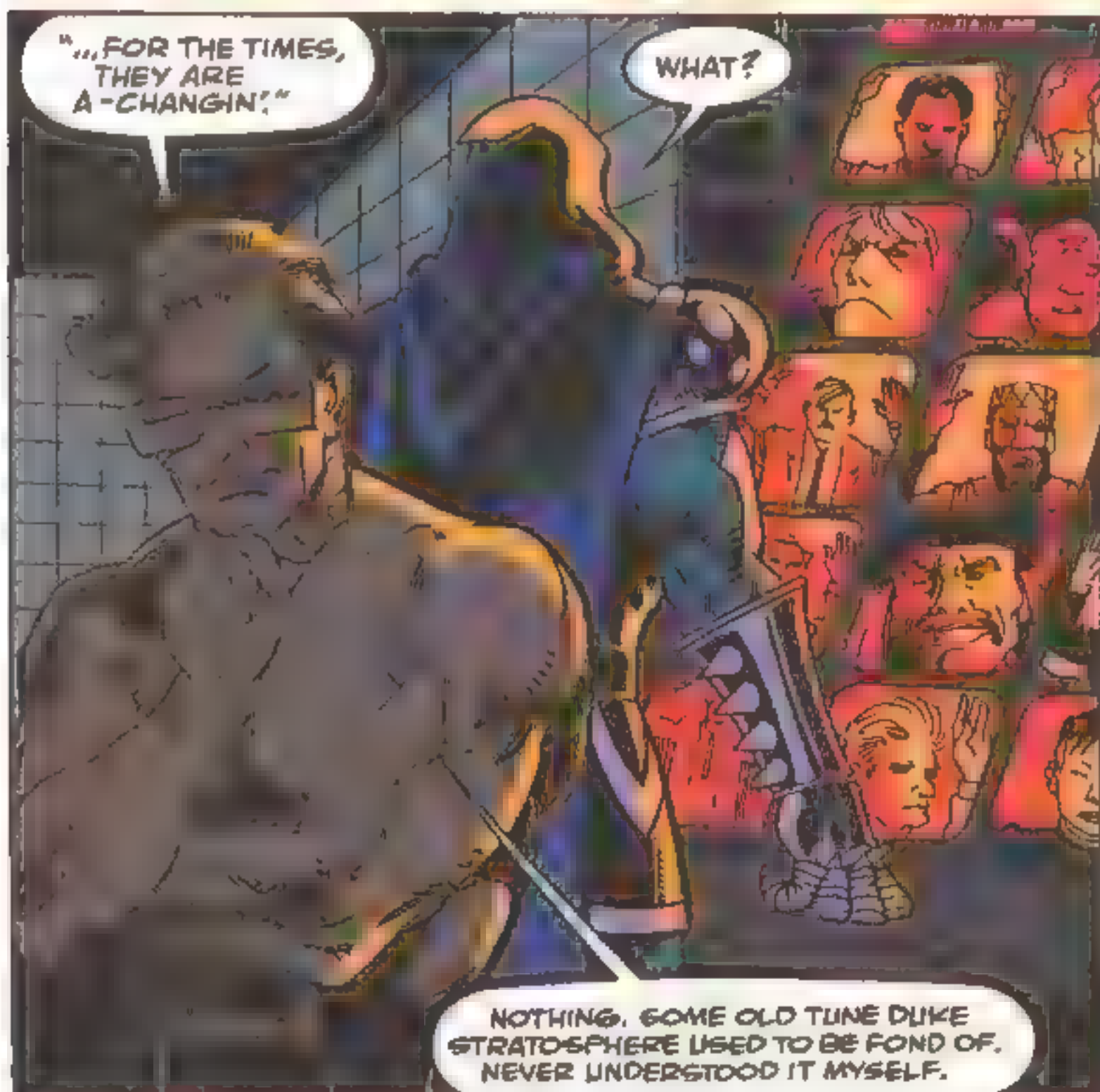
BETTER TO EXPAND ONE'S
HORIZONS WITH IT, NO?

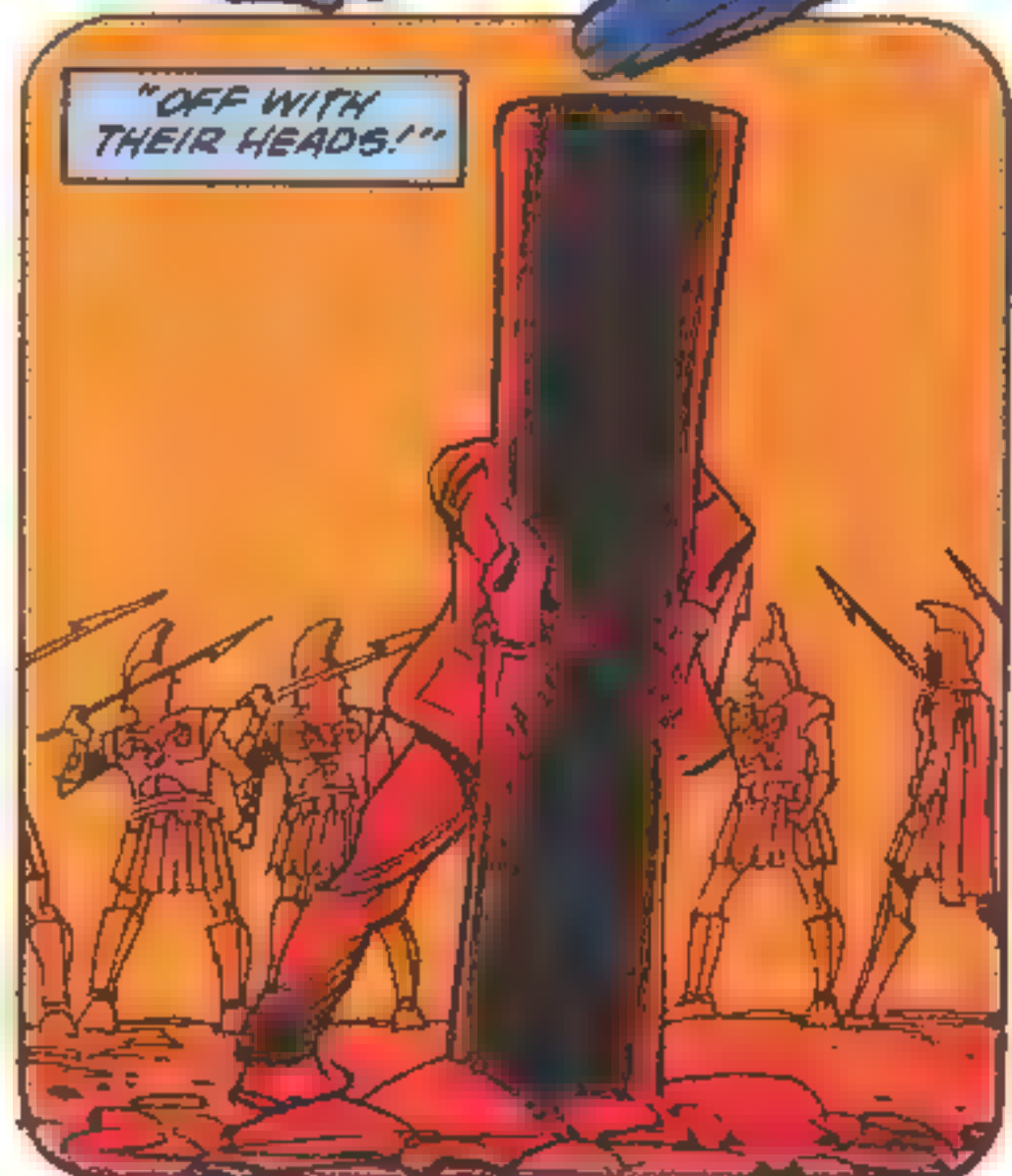
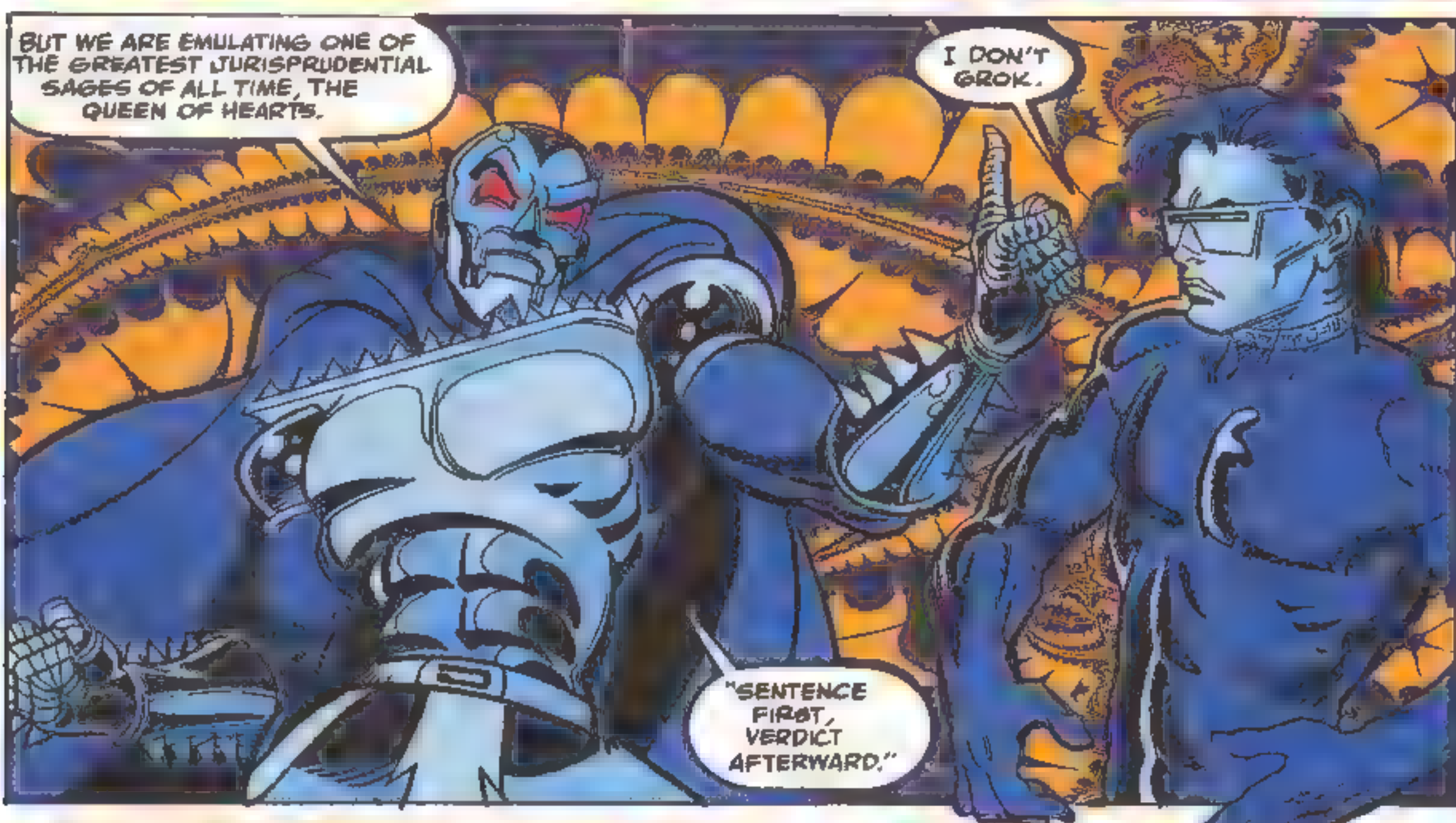
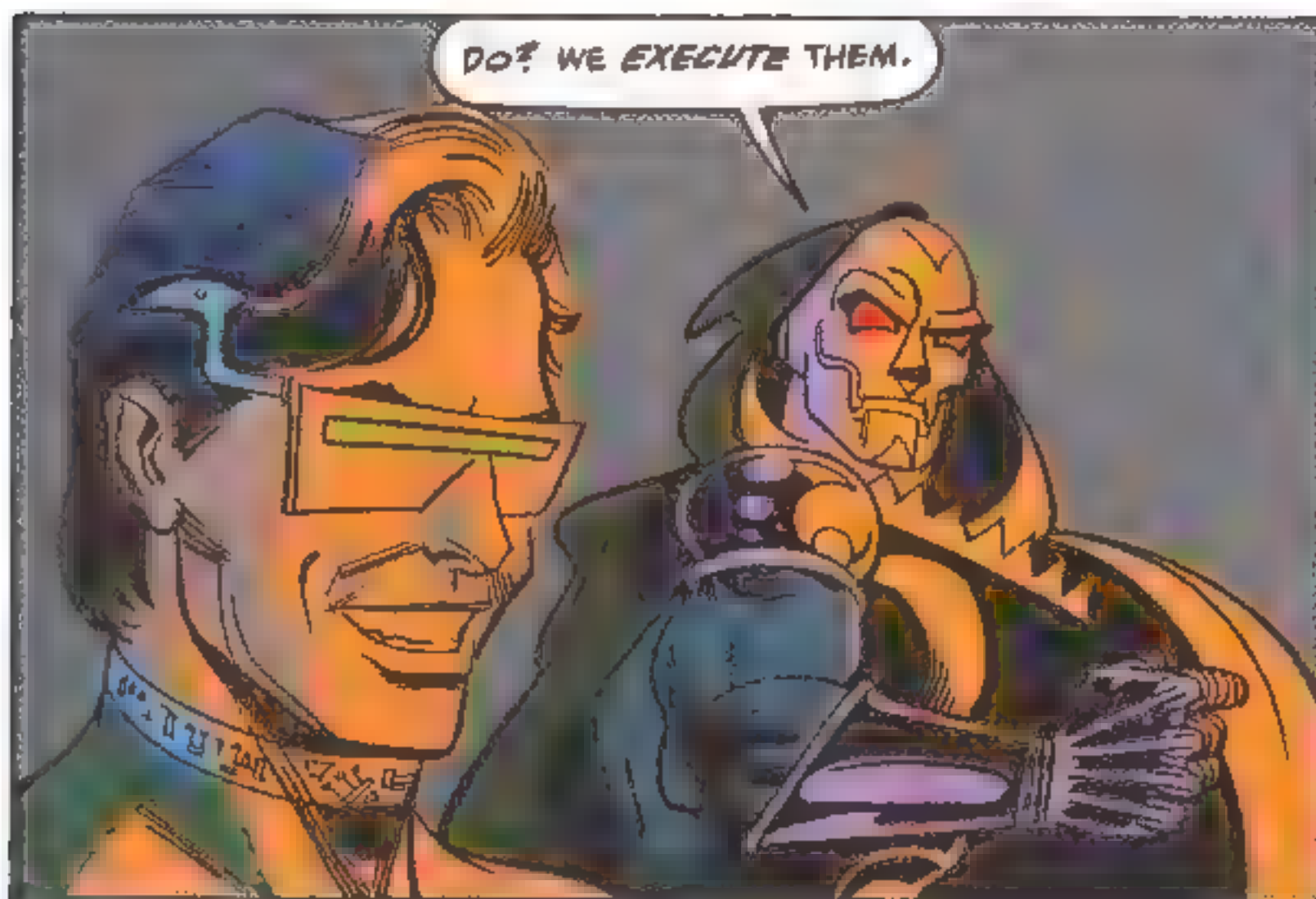
GENTLEMEN... WHEREVER THE
ROAD HEADS... WHATEVER
THE CHALLENGE...

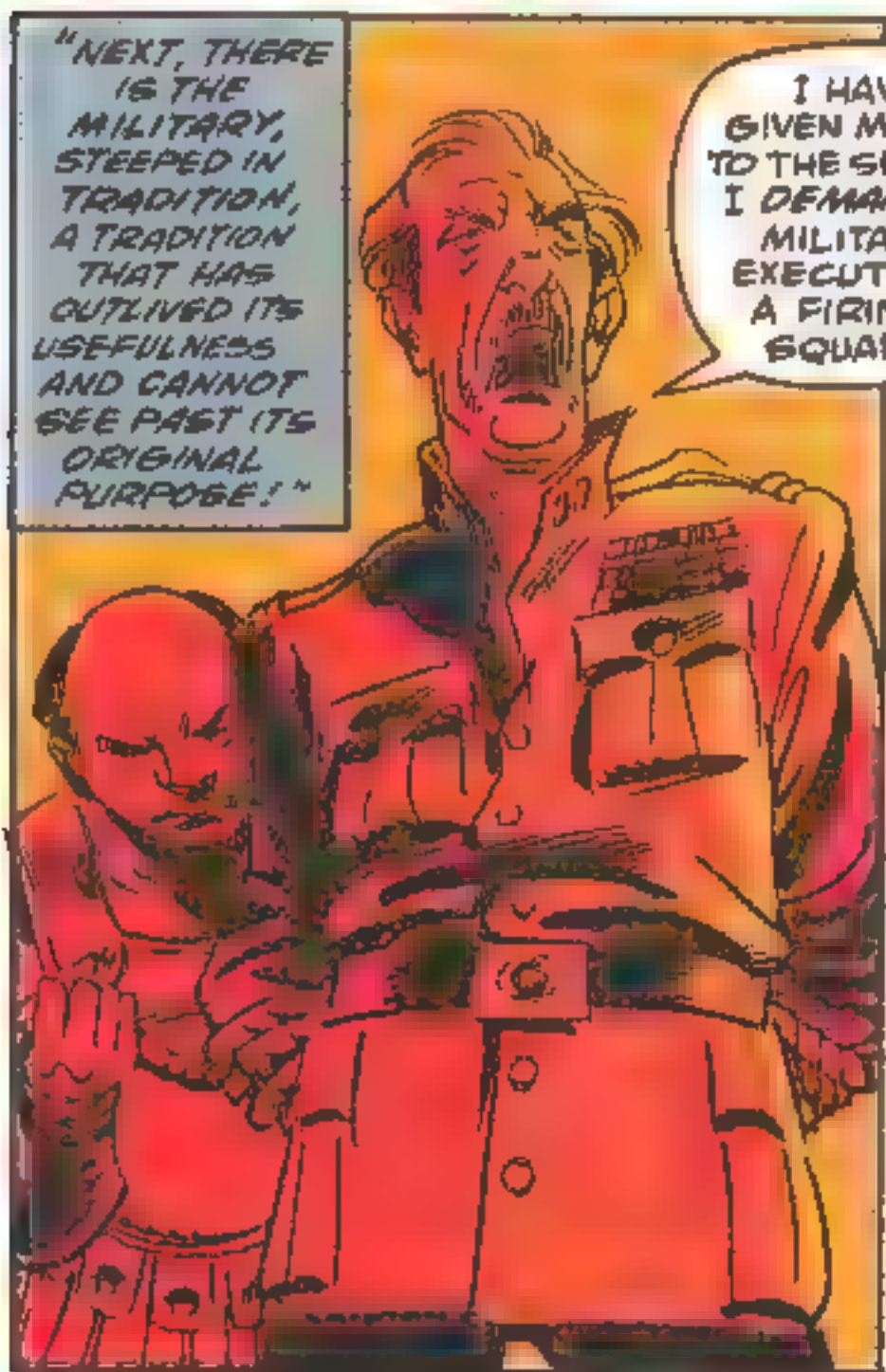
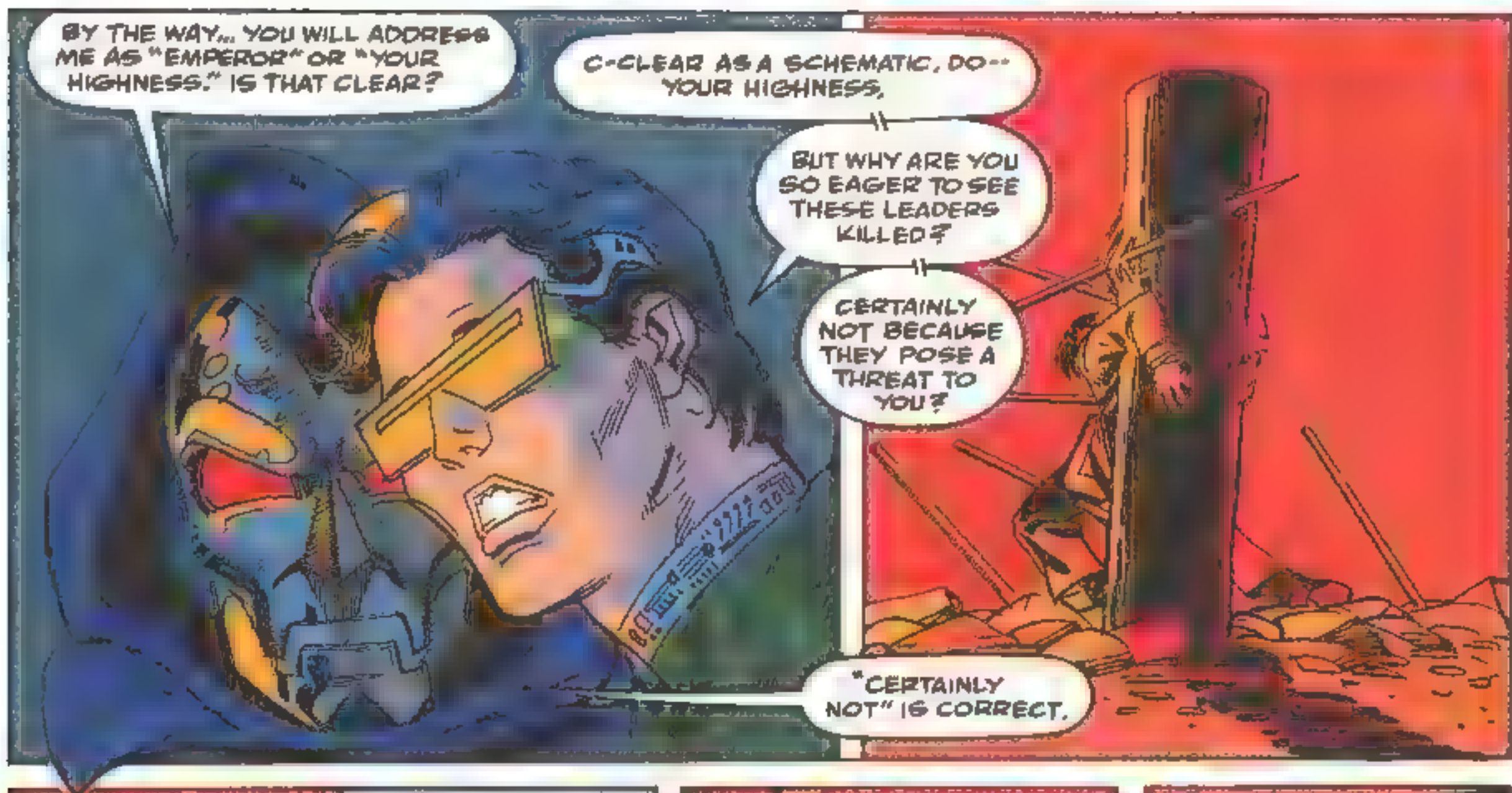


DOOM WILL LEAD!!









BUT, DOO-- EMPEROR DOOM,,, ALL THESE MEN,,, ALL THESE LIVES,,,

...ARE EXPENDABLE IN 2099.

WHY DO YOU FEEL FOR THEM, WIRE? WHAT GRINDING WHEELS HAVE I SET IN MOTION THAT SOCIETY HAS NOT?

THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE FATE I OFFER THEM, AND THE ONE POLITE SOCIETY PROFFERS, IS THE SPEED AT WHICH IT ARRIVES.

LIKE CAESAR, LIKE NAPOLEON, LIKE HAMMURABI, I NOW PROCLAIM A NEW AND PERFECT UNIVERSAL SYSTEM OF LAW.

THESE JUDGES, BECAUSE OF THEIR HUMAN NATURE, CANNOT APPROACH THE IMPARTIALITY THEY PRETEND.

JUSTICE IS NOT BLIND TO THEM, THEY SEE CLASS AND RACE TOO CLEARLY,

COMPUTERS, PROGRAMMED WITH EVERY LEGAL PRECEDENT, USE THE BEST OF HUMAN REASON, WHILE AFFECTING MACHINE-LIKE PRECISION.

THEY WILL TRY CASES ON THE DATA THEY ARE FED... THAT IS, THE MERITS OF THE CASE.

THESE JUDGES WILL BE...SUMMARILY DISMISSED.

AND THE MILITARY?

HOW DO YOU KEEP THEM
FROM RISING UP AGAINST
YOU?

HOW DO YOU KEEP A GENERAL FROM THINKING HE
CAN RUN THINGS BETTER THAN...THE EMPEROR?

BY ELIMINATING
THEM ENTIRELY!

GETTING
RID OF THE
MILITARY?
HOW?

BY FIRST
ELIMINATING
BORDERS.

BORDERS ARE AN
EVIL. BORDERS ARE
THE REASON MEN SIGN
UP TO FIGHT AND DIE.
~~BORDERS~~ INSPIRE THE
FOOLISH PRIDE OF
NATIONALISM. TOO MANY
HAVE DIED PROTECTING
BORDERS!

UNDER MY
REIGN, THE MAP WILL
BE REDRAWN. ALL BORDERS
ELIMINATED. THERE WILL
BE BUT ONE HOMELAND!

MINE!



GENTLEMEN...

...WE HAVE
PLACED OUR
TRUST IN THE
RIGHT MAN.

WE... ALL OF US... HAVE
MADE OUR *OWN* BORDERS.
THROUGH TIME, WE
DECIDED WHERE THE
MARKERS WERE TO BE
PLACED.

WE HAD NOT THE *MEANS*
TO PLACE OUR BANNER
AT *ULTIMA THULE*.

A WORLD
UNITED UNDER
ONE FLAG! IT
CAN BE DONE!
IT IS MY
WILL!



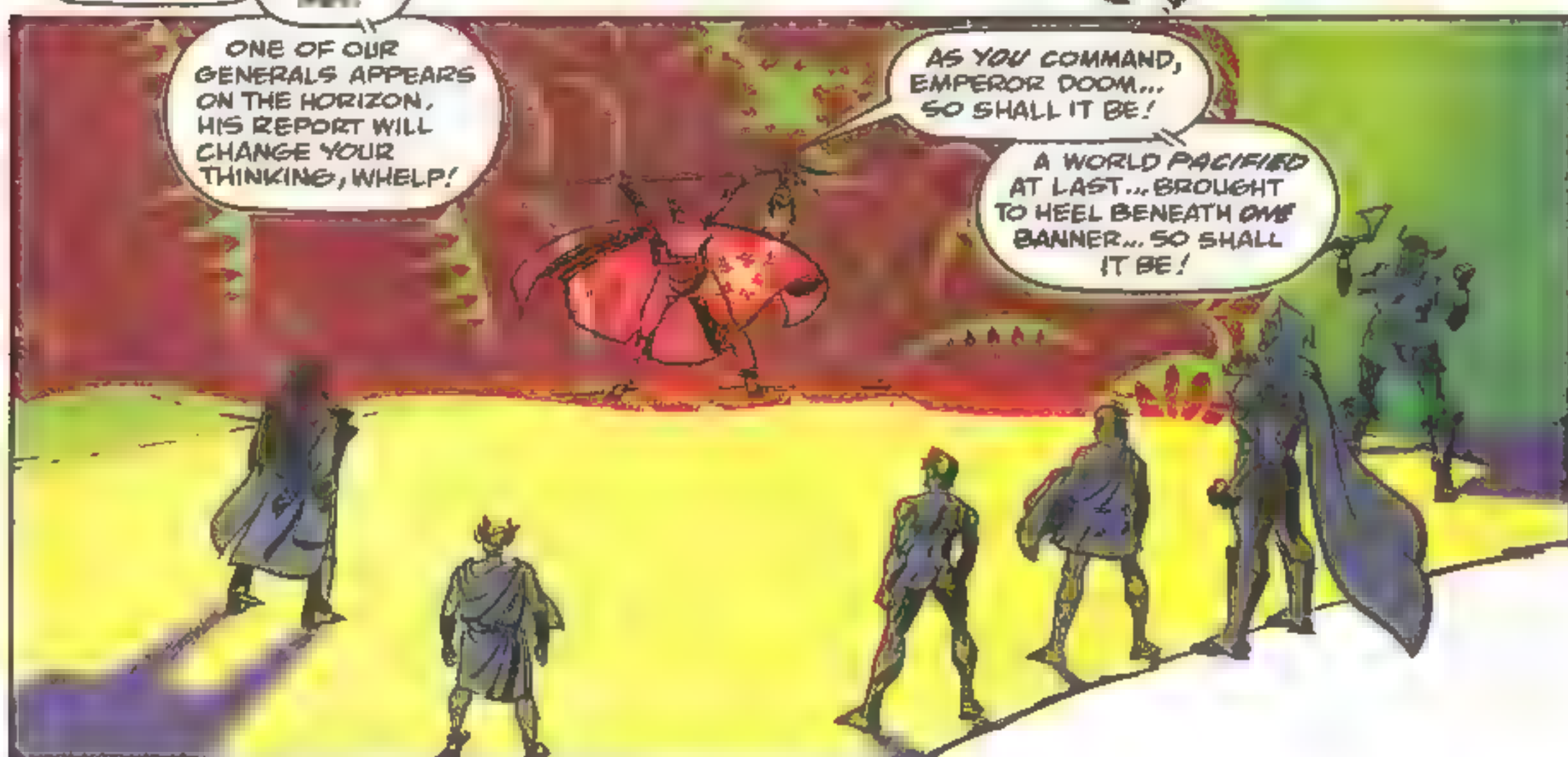
THIS PRESENTS
A BIT OF A
PROBLEM...

WHAT NATION
WOULD WANT TO
HAVE ITS BORDERS
ERASED... ITS
NATIONAL IDENTITY
MELDED WITH
A NEIGHBOR IT
PROBABLY
HATES?

SETTLING BORDER
FEUDS THAT HAVE
LASTED FOR
CENTURIES
ISN'T GONNA
HAPPEN
OVERNIGHT.

THAT SO-CALLED
FOOLISH NATIONAL-
ISM RUNS PRETTY
DEEP, YOU'LL GET
RESISTANCE.

RESISTANCE? I THINK
YES!



ONE OF OUR
GENERALS APPEARS
ON THE HORIZON,
HIS REPORT WILL
CHANGE YOUR
THINKING, WHELP!

AS YOU COMMAND,
EMPEROR DOOM...
SO SHALL IT BE!

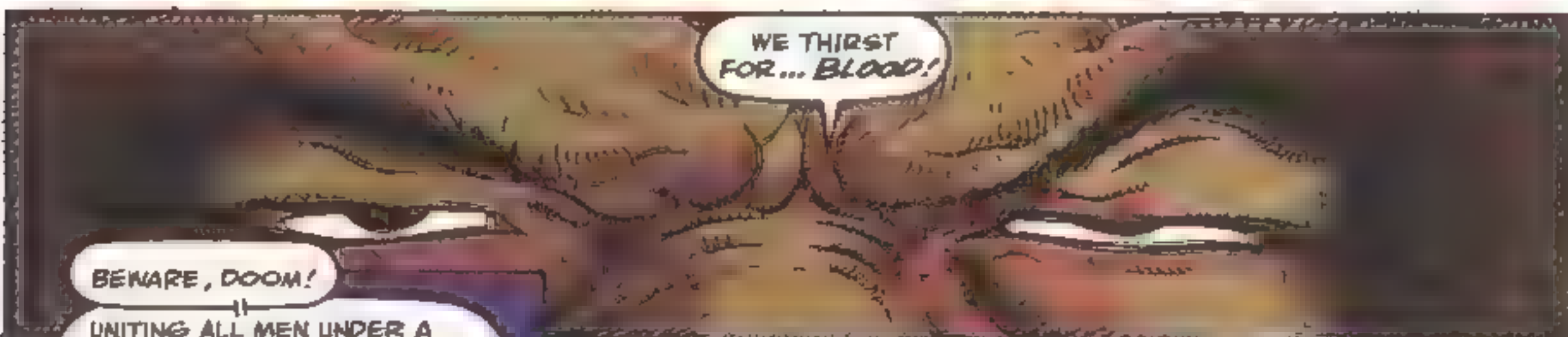
A WORLD PACIFIED
AT LAST... BROUGHT
TO HEEL BENEATH *ONE*
BANNER... SO SHALL
IT BE!



AND SO SAY
WE ALL!

MY ARMY IS
READY FOR ITS
FINAL RIDE!

WE THIRST FOR
THAT FOR WHICH WE
WERE BORN!



WE THIRST
FOR... BLOOD!

BEMARE, DOOM!

UNITING ALL MEN UNDER A
COMMON BANNER MAY NOT BE
ENOUGH... IF THE HUN SPEAKS
TRULY.

YOU CAN CURB MEN'S
LOYALTIES, BUT NOT THEIR
APPETITES... ESPECIALLY IF
THEIR APPETITES RUN TO
BATTLE... TO WAR!



MAYBE SO, MAYBE NO.

AT LAST, SOMETHING I
CAN CONTRIBUTE... SOMETHING
THIS BRAVE NEW WORLD NEEDS.



IF I'M GOING TO
BE AN ARCHITECT
OF THIS NEW WORLD
ORDER, IT DESERVES
FAR MORE THAN IT'S
GETTING FROM THE
LIKES OF YOU!





WHY SHOULD ONLY THE
WARRIORS OF HISTORY
DECIDE THE FUTURE...

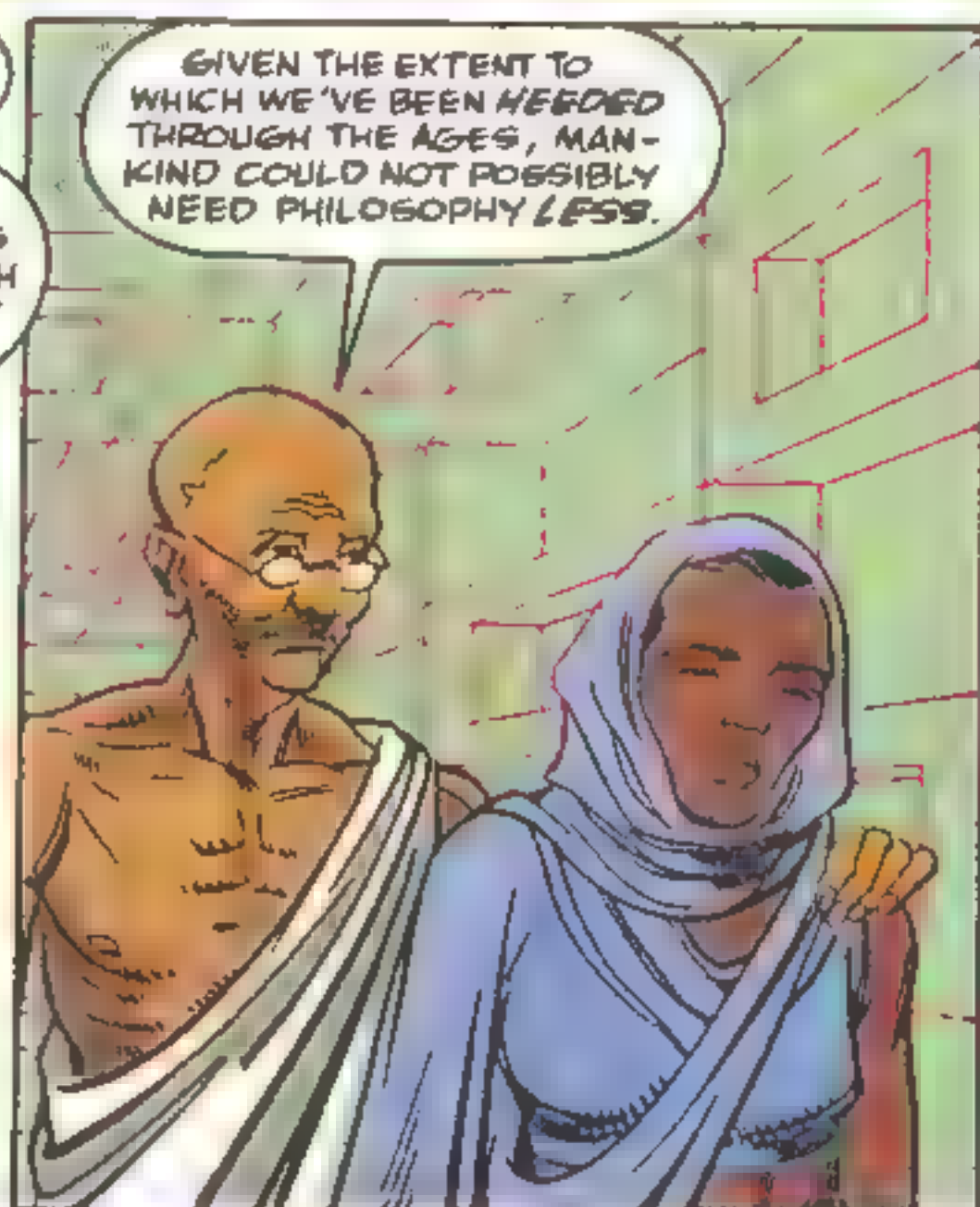
...WHEN IT NEEDS
PHILOSOPHERS?



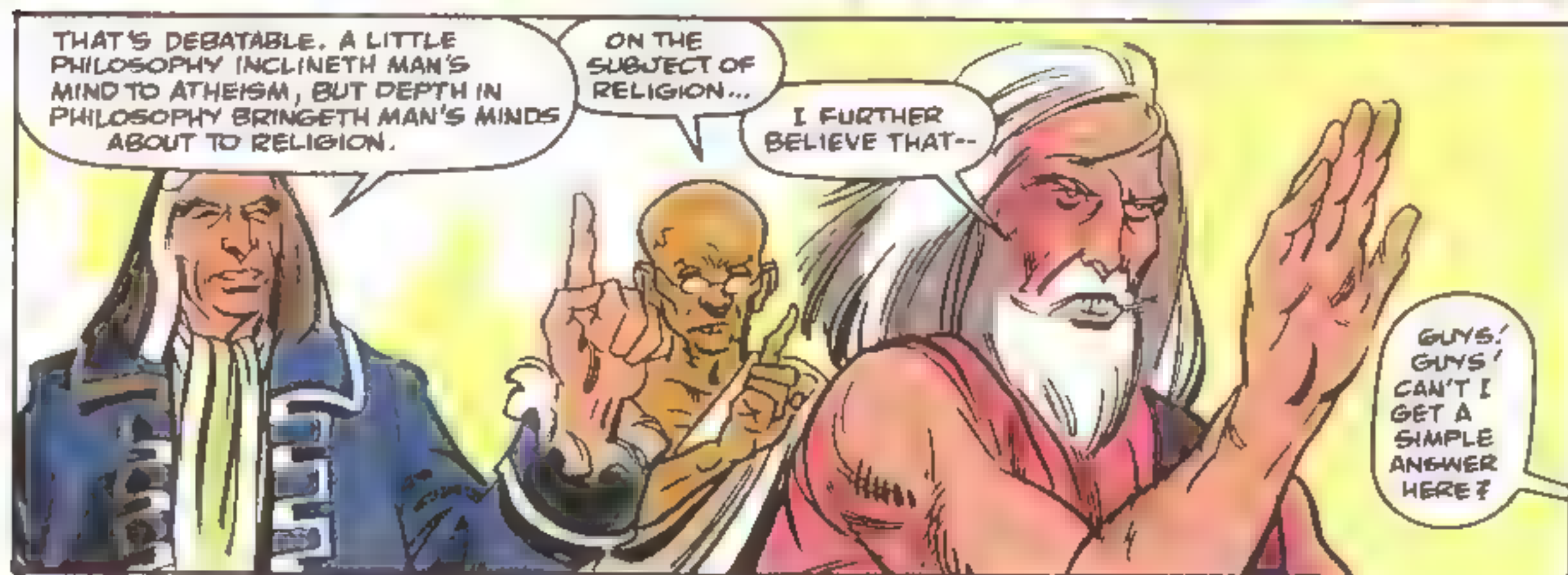
NEED? WHO AMONG US CAN
SAY WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS?

DO ANY OF US
REALLY KNOW?

ALL I
KNOW IS
HOW MUCH
I DO NOT
KNOW.



GIVEN THE EXTENT TO
WHICH WE'VE BEEN *NEEDED*
THROUGH THE AGES, MAN-
KIND COULD NOT POSSIBLY
NEED PHILOSOPHY *LESS*.

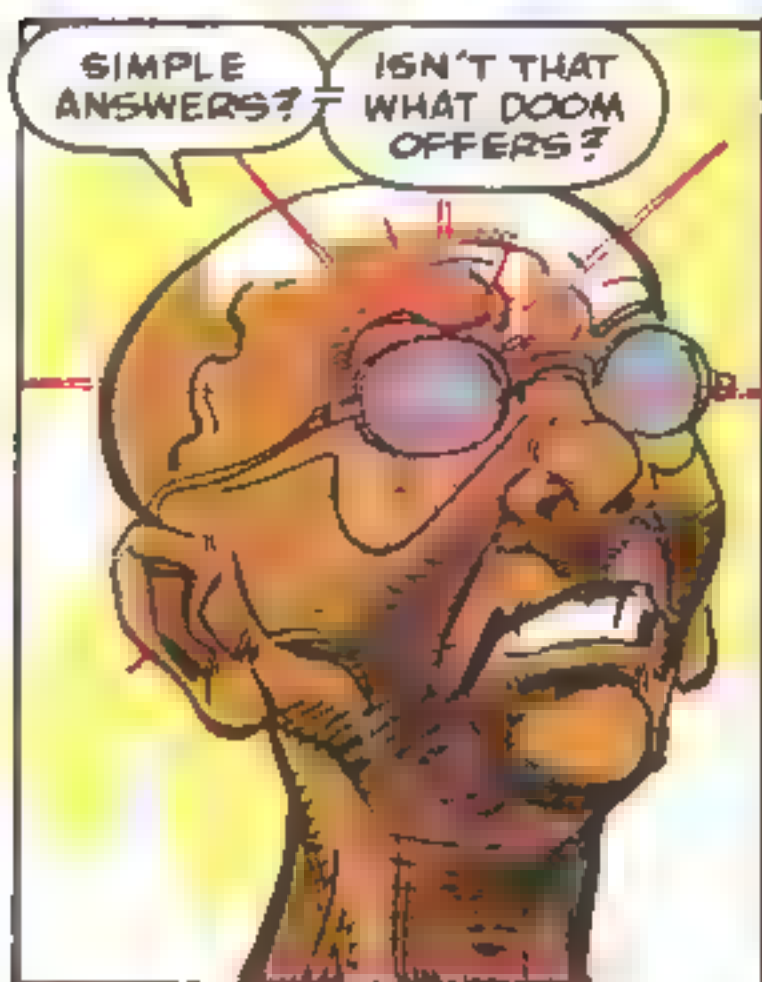


THAT'S DEBATABLE. A LITTLE
PHILOSOPHY INCLINETH MAN'S
MIND TO ATHEISM, BUT DEPTH IN
PHILOSOPHY BRINGETH MAN'S MINDS
ABOUT TO RELIGION.

ON THE
SUBJECT OF
RELIGION...

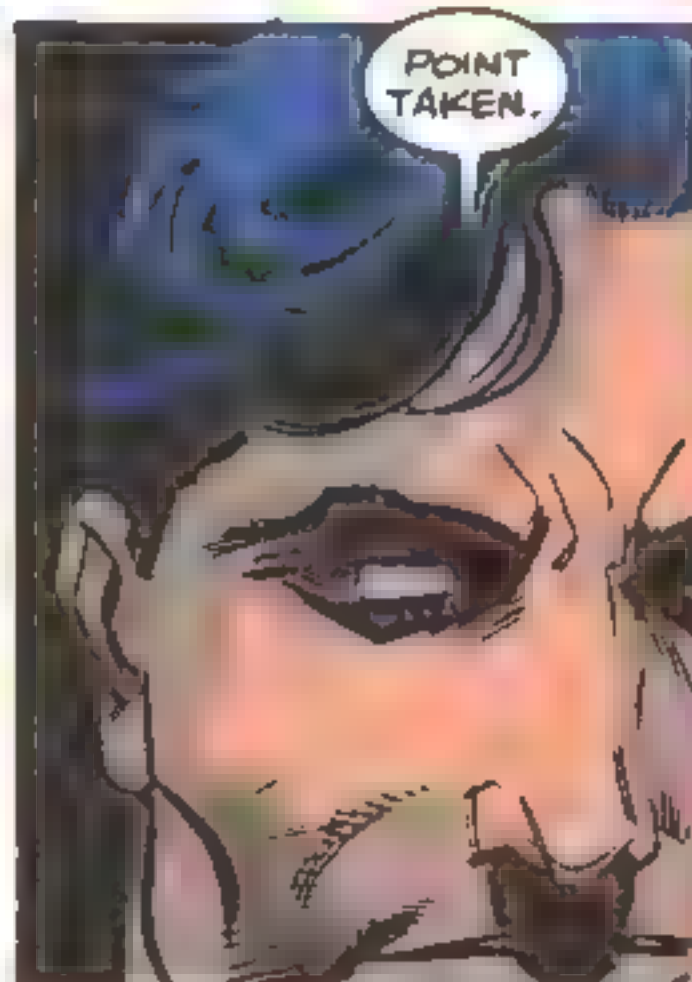
I FURTHER
BELIEVE THAT--

GUYS!
GUYS!
CAN'T I
GET A
SIMPLE
ANSWER
HERE?



SIMPLE
ANSWERS?

ISN'T THAT
WHAT DOOM
OFFERS?

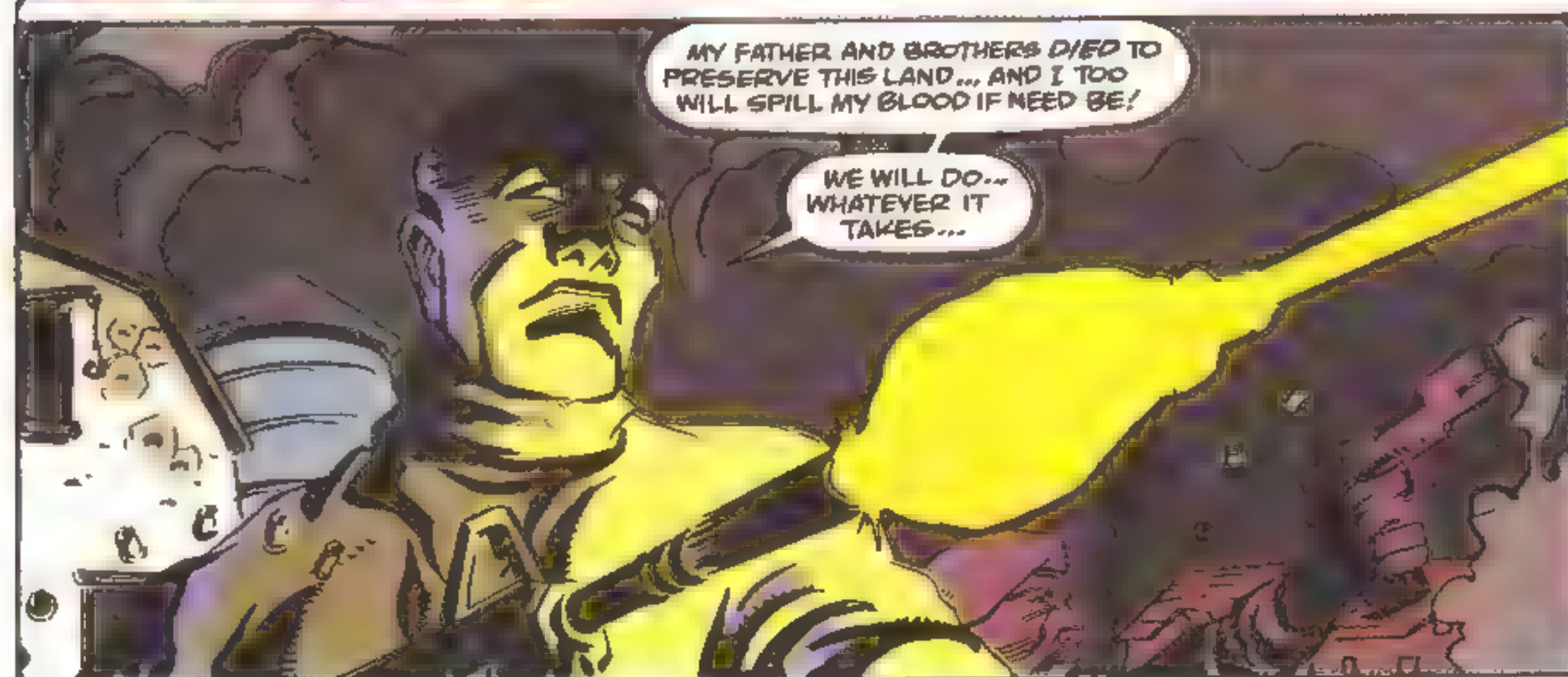
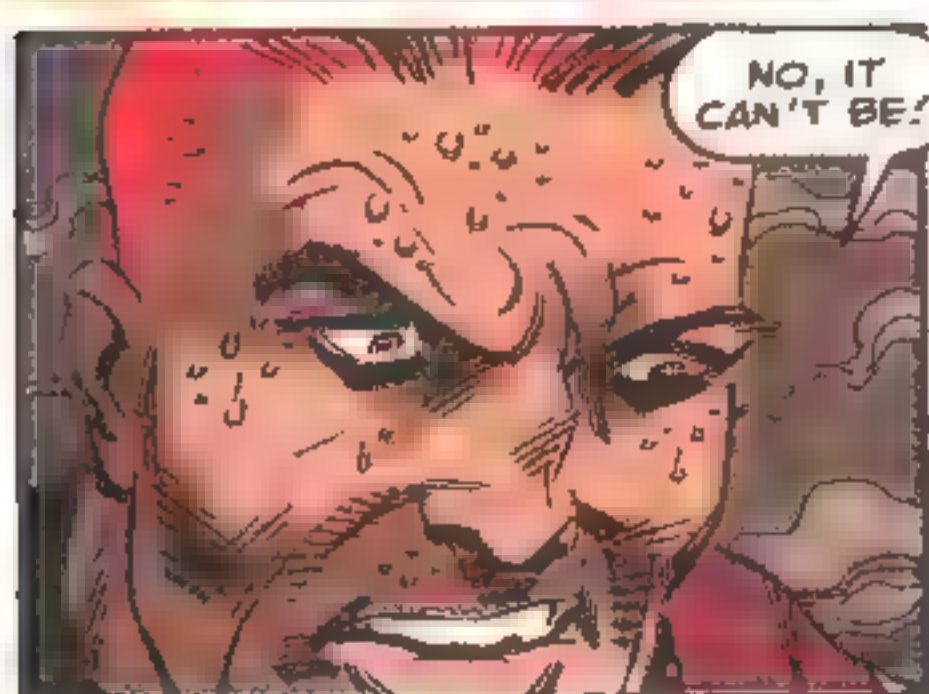
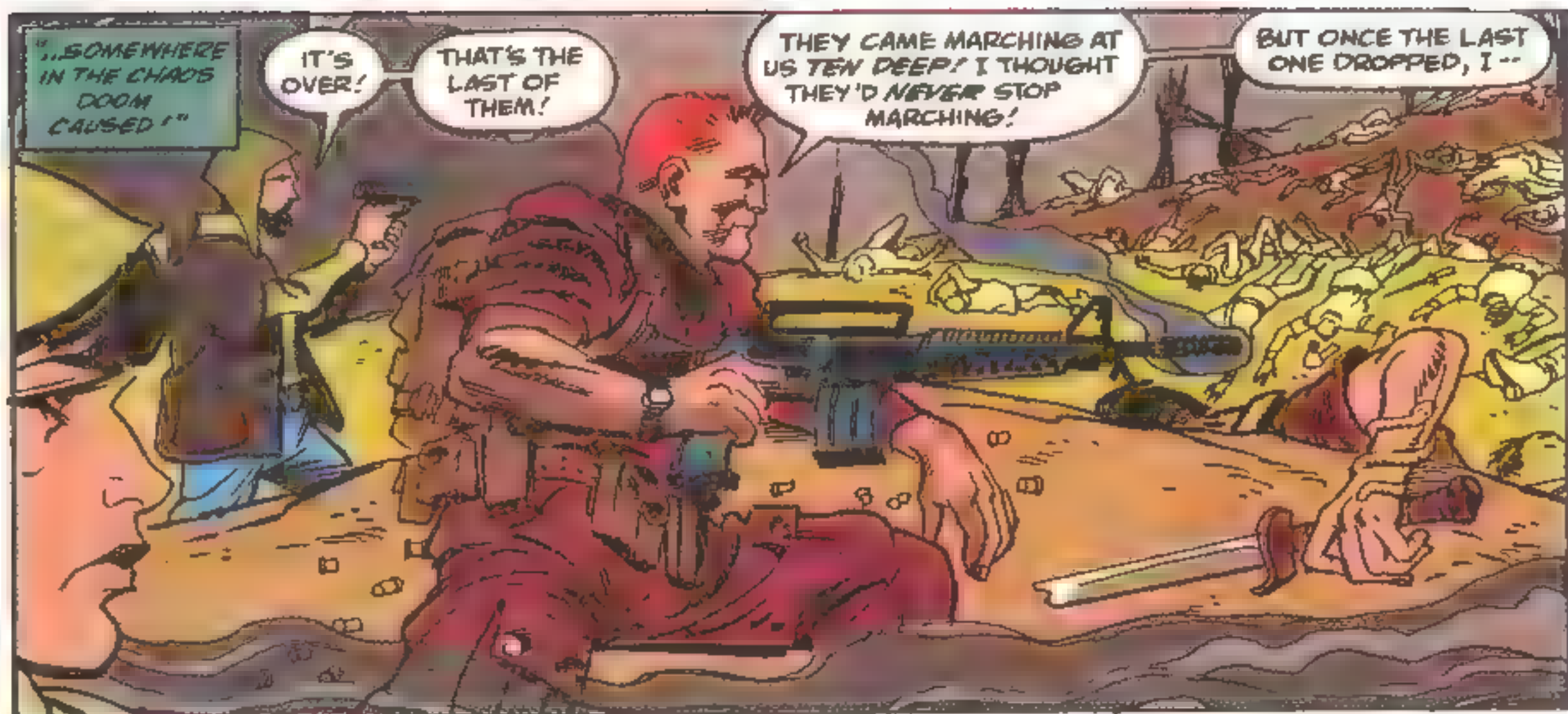


POINT
TAKEN.



LIKE ALL PHILOSOPHY
STATES... IF I WANT AN
ANSWER, I'VE GOT TO
FIND IT MYSELF.

AND I THINK
I KNOW
WHERE. I JUST
HOPE I CAN
FIND IT...







YOU, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

SEARCHING FOR A MAN WHO COULD HELP US IN THIS DILEMMA.

INDEED?



AND WHO IS THIS SAGE? FROM WHAT NAMELESS LAND AND TIMELESS TIME IN VIRTUAL REALITY HAVE YOU DRAGGED HIM?

I FOUND HIM WHERE I SHOULD HAVE LOOKED IN THE FIRST PLACE...

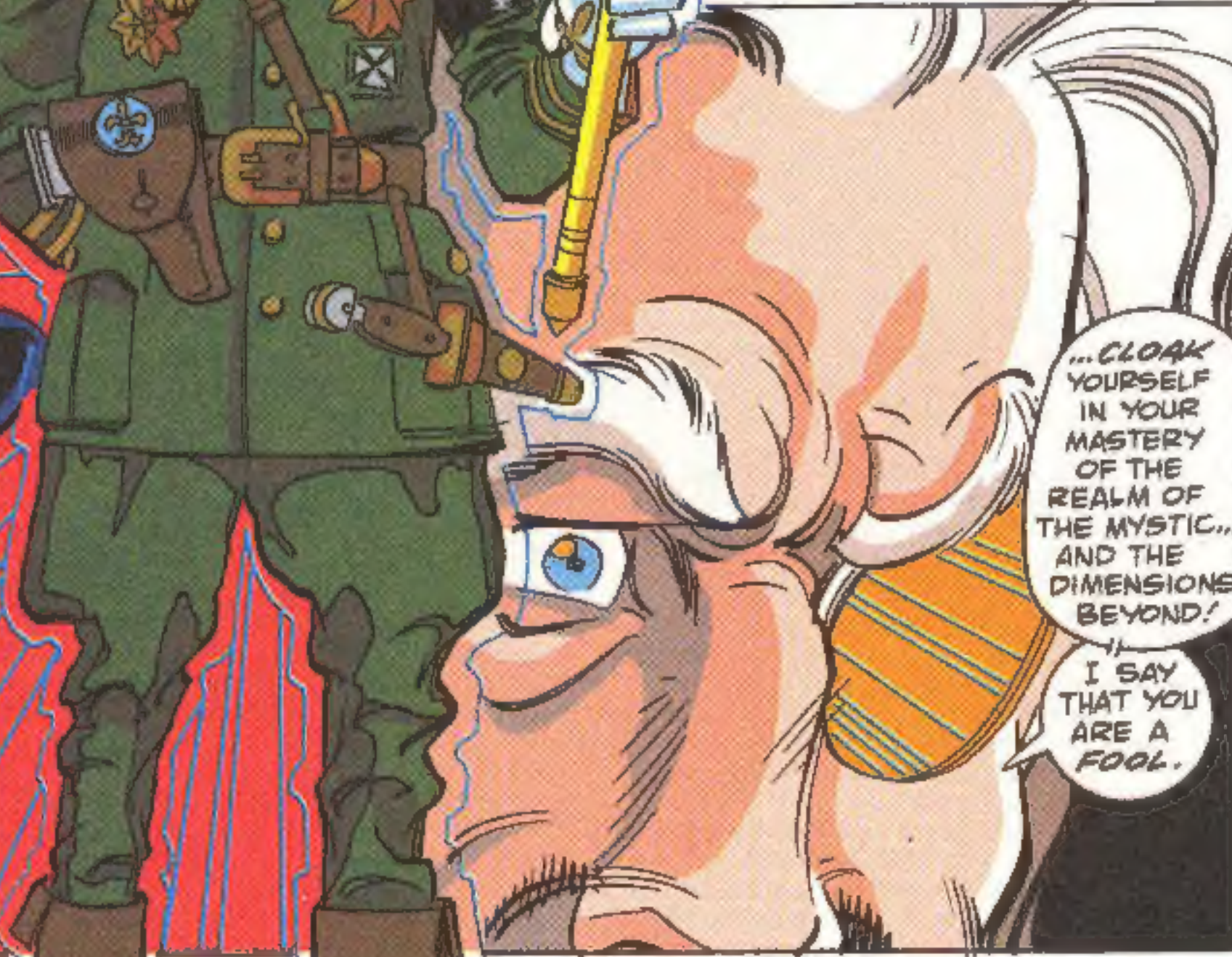
...LATVERIA.

HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A PRINCE OF THE ROYAL BLOOD OR SOMETHING. I NEVER QUITE GOT IT STRAIGHT.



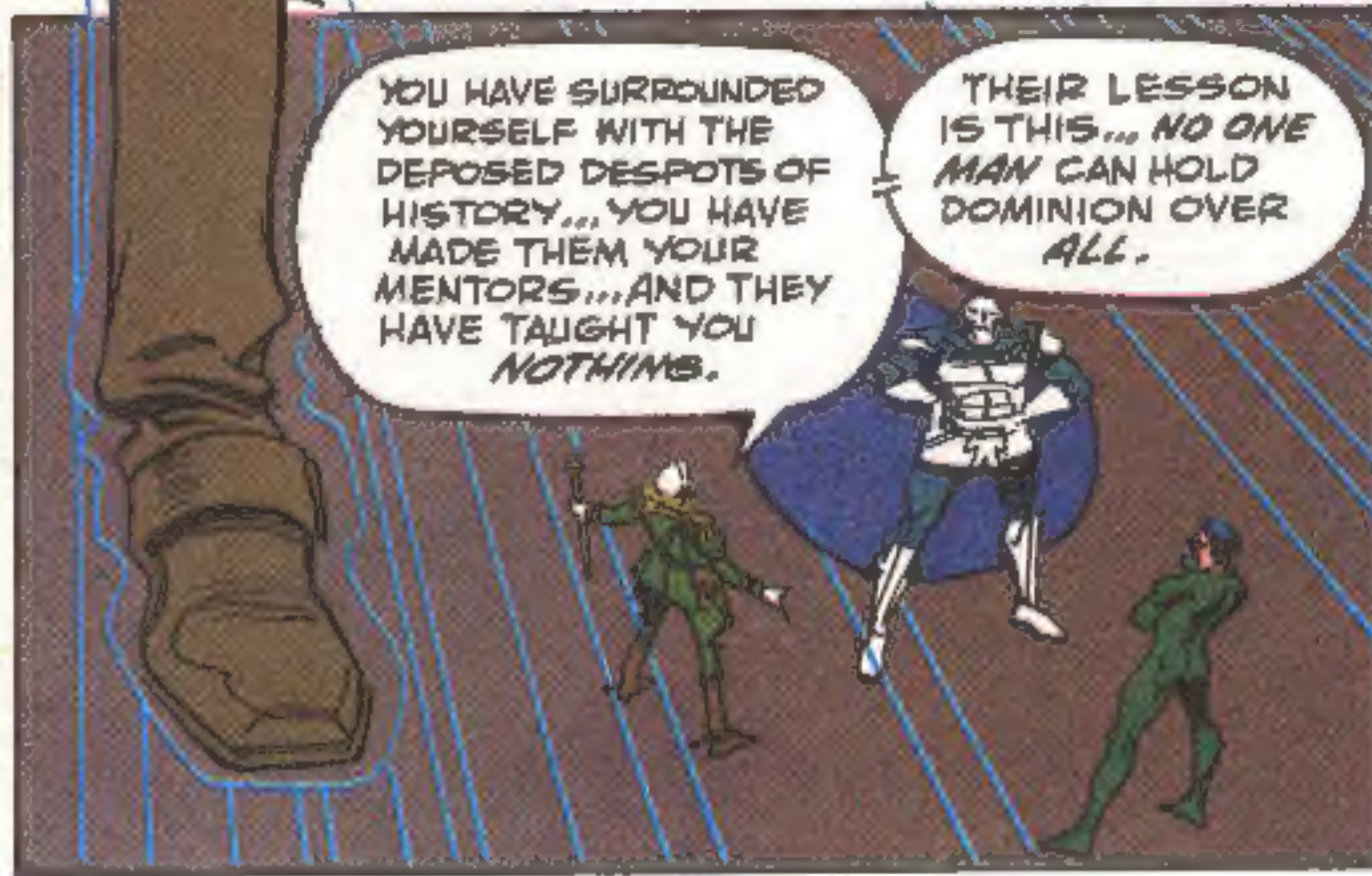
YOU PUP!

YOU CALL YOURSELF ROYALTY...



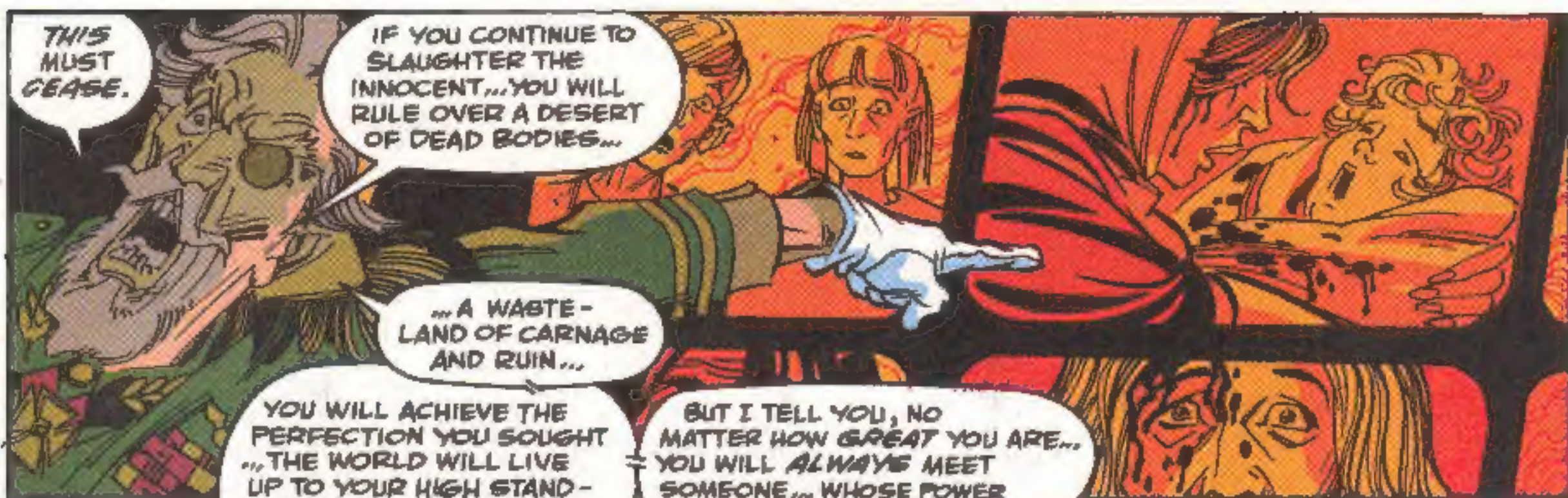
...CLOAK YOURSELF IN YOUR MASTERY OF THE REALM OF THE MYSTIC... AND THE DIMENSIONS BEYOND!

I SAY THAT YOU ARE A FOOL.



YOU HAVE SURROUNDED YOURSELF WITH THE DEPOSED DESPOTS OF HISTORY... YOU HAVE MADE THEM YOUR MENTORS... AND THEY HAVE TAUGHT YOU NOTHING.

THEIR LESSON IS THIS... NO ONE MAN CAN HOLD DOMINION OVER ALL.



THIS MUST CEASE.

IF YOU CONTINUE TO SLAUGHTER THE INNOCENT... YOU WILL RULE OVER A DESERT OF DEAD BODIES...

... A WASTE-LAND OF CARNAGE AND RUIN...

YOU WILL ACHIEVE THE PERFECTION YOU SOUGHT... THE WORLD WILL LIVE UP TO YOUR HIGH STANDARDS... BECAUSE THE ONLY MAN LEFT STANDING WILL BE YOU.

BUT I TELL YOU, NO MATTER HOW GREAT YOU ARE... YOU WILL ALWAYS MEET SOMEONE... WHOSE POWER IS FAR GREATER!



YOU CANNOT SPEAK TO ME THUS.

HERE, MINE IS THE ULTIMATE WORD! THE ULTIMATE POWER!



YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY I AM HERE, DO YOU?

DO YOU WISH TO SEE POWER?



BEHOLD!

THIS IS MYSTIC POWER BEYOND YOUR KEN!

YOUR ARMIES? GONE!

YOUR STRANGLE-HOLD ON THE WORLD'S RESOURCES? GONE!

YOUR CHANCE TO CONTROL THIS PLANET'S FUTURE? GONE, JUST AS QUICKLY!



